APOLOGIES
I must apologise to those members who have received unwanted e-mails. –
Hopefully this will not occur again as I am now sending correspondence and
newsletters in the bcc box.
I would just like to say that if members want to advertise their wares, then to
do it via the newsletter, and not personally sending their own e-mails to
everyone.
You are welcome to advertise as much as you want, there are no restrictions.
-Apologies again, for what has happened.

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THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION
After careful consideration I decided to join the American Topical Association.
I had seen their excellent publication Topical Time, which is very informative,
and includes information on many, many different topics which can all be
found on stamps.
Their Judaica content was very sparse, along with their listings of Judaica in
their Checklists. – But I thought that if I did not join, then I would not know
how good or bad the association was for a Judaica collector, and at the same
time, maybe I could give a little input to the Topical Association with a little
Judaica knowledge.

One interesting observation that I did notice, that including myself, there are 7
members in our society that are members of the American Topical Association.
In fact, there may be other members in our Judaica Thematic Society that may
be members too. The reason being, that I was going off an ATA Membership
list of a couple of years ago.

Once my membership was accepted, I submitted listings for their Judaica
checklists, which immediately increased from 5 pages to 34 pages.
I have also submitted an article about Judaica collecting which I believe will be
published towards the end of the year in their publication Topical Time, with
illustrations too. Once published I will include it in our Newsletter too, but
without the stamp illustrations regrettably.

(The reason for the lack of illustrations in our newsletters is because I am not on Broadband, and downloading illustrations takes literally hours to download – I suppose that I should compile my letters with Microsoft Publisher, but although I have it in my laptop, my computer knowledge is limited. I would rather spend my time with my Judaica hobby, than experiment with the computer! – However, if anyone can give me any beneficial information regarding Microsoft Publisher, that would benefit “our newsletters”, then it would be gratefully appreciated – but remember I am not on Broadband!!)

Because we have a number of American Topical Association members in our society, I took the decision, of applying to become a Study Unit, associated with the American Topical Association. I can now confirm, that we have been awarded an ATA Study Unit Charter. I thought that “we” as the Judaica Thematic Society may be able to help the ATA and at the same time, we may get added publicity, and more importantly more new members.

The American Topical Association, seems to be a very well run Association, with an excellent general Topical and Thematical publication. However, Judaica content is quite sparse at present. – But hopefully in time this may be improved with the presence of the Judaica Study Group.

As I like to be perfectly honest with what I write in the newsletter, unfortunately one point that I do have to mention however, is that delivery of the publication to Liverpool in the U.K. is poor – the package is stamped “Surface” so it seems to go with the Surface Mail, which can take weeks for delivery rather than days.
(I was speaking to another U.K. ATA member who also has the same problem of delay).
I am a member of various American societies, and receive literature via Air Mail, which is much quicker.
If the ATA want to attract more U.K. members then they have to rectify this problem straight away.
To be fair, the editor Mr George Griffenhagen is aware of the problem and is going to look into it. – Hopefully, I will be able to inform you when this problem is rectified.

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ROMANIAN HOLOCAUST ISSUE BECOMING SCARCE.
I don’t usually like “tipping” or recommending stamps to buy – after-all the
only person that benefits is usually the stamp dealer selling you the stamps. The full details about this issue was mentioned in the Number 18, May 2007 Newsletter.
But the tabbed version of the stamp – which is only the bottom 4 stamps on a sheet of 32 stamps - and the pane of 8 in a miniature sheet, are both becoming extremely hard to find. – Especially as the dealers that I have spoken to are clueless, and did not even think that these versions existed besides the single mint stamp version.
Just try to purchase a strip of 4 of the tabbed stamp version and a miniature sheet of the 8 stamps, and you will see what I mean.
Good-Luck!.

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BELGIUM JUDAICA ISSUE
Thanks to member Raymond Hart for informing me, that on June 18th. 2007, Belgium issued a stamp about the Jewish Museum of Belgium.
The set of 3 is titled Small Museums, but only one of the stamps is of Judaica relevance. The stamp depicts the museum and an object from the museum, which depicts Hebrew wording on it.
They are available in sheetlets of 10, which also depicts the Museum on the top of the sheet.

Their programme for 2008 provides for a stamp on March 17th. 2008 to commemorate 200 years of the Jewish Community in Belgium. – This will consist of a single stamp.

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ISRAELI FLAG ON STAMPS
Raymond Hart also mentioned that the July/August edition of “L’Echo de la Timbrologie” – the leading French philatelic magazine lists the Israeli flag as appearing on the following stamps, and says that the list is non-exhaustive:-

- Czechoslovakia – 1961 – YT 1182 – Prelude to Prague 1962
- Mexico – 1970 – Sheetlet – World Cup (Football)
- French Polynesia – 1969 – World underwater hunt championship
- Czechoslovakia – 1970 – YT 1802 – World Cup (Football) in Mexico
- South Korea – 1984 – YT BF 366 – Philakorea exhibition
- Dominica – 1990 – Block – World Cup (Football)
- Samoa – 1993 – YT 770 – International day of the stamp
Albania – 2002 – YT 2652 – 90 years of Independence
Macedonia – 2004 – YT 315 – Athens Olympic Games
Monaco – 2004 – International Stamp Exhibition
St. Kitts – 2006 – Centenary of Boy Scouts
Nevis – 2007 – Centenary of Boy Scouts
Antigua-Barbuda – 2007 – Centenary of Boy Scouts

I (Gary) can think of other issues, that depict an Israeli flag –
They include the attractive French issue of 1999 that depicts the Israeli and French flag on a blue background, commemorating 50 Years of diplomatic relations between France and Israel.
A German issue of 2001 (International Network Union Congress) depicts the Israeli flag, amongst other flags.
Finally, another German issue of 2005 to commemorate Germany diplomatic relations with Israel, also depicts the Israeli flag, alongside the German flag.

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COMPLETE SHEET OF THE SCARCE SOUTH AFRICA 40c BIBLE STAMP

Not everything gets reported in the Philatelic press – and this was certainly the case of the scarce South Africa Bible Society stamp of 1987.
It was whilst I was in conversation with the U.K. auctioneers Warwick & Warwick, that they mentioned that last year in November 2006, they sold a complete sheet of 25 stamps of the Bible Society 40c value for £3529.

I never knew that complete sheets existed, and certainly was not aware that they were in sheets of 25.
As this is a relatively scarce issue, I would have thought that it would have been news-worthy amongst the auction news pages of the philatelic magazines. – If not in the U.K. then certainly in the U.S. or South Africa.
But as far as I am aware, it did not appear in print anywhere.
It was certainly a bargain missed.
I have taken a personal interest in this stamp, as I am trying to obtain all different formats of this stamp in blocks, sheets etc, as well as used versions.
It is a very hard stamp to come across – especially at reasonable prices too!.

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ANY NEW MEMBERS?
As you will see, there are no new members this month!
If you know of anyone that you think would be interested in joining – just tell them to contact me, for details. (E-mail:- gary.goodman26@btinternet.com)

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